



NEWS RELEASE

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CITY OF LAWTEY BREAKS GROUND ON WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

LAWTEY, FL, August 26, 2004 — The North Central Florida community of Lawtey took a giant step forward today. With assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, today's groundbreaking will bring a centralized wastewater collection system to an area currently dependent on on-site septic systems. Due to soil conditions and a high ground water level in the area, continued use of individual septic systems furthers concerns regarding public health, environmental and population growth issues. "Investing in basic community infrastructure supports President Bush's vision for a strong and vibrant rural America," said Rural Development State Director Charles W. Clemons, Sr. "We can never take for granted the importance of these types of facilities to the health and safety of our residents, to the viability of our environment, and to the sustainability of our communities."

Funding for the project was provided with \$2,132,000 in assistance from USDA Rural Development (\$1,300,000 grant and \$832,000 loan) along with \$300,000 from the Suwannee River Water Management District. "The City of Lawtey's efforts in working with local and congressional leaders as well as state and regulatory agencies are paving the way in meeting the needs of the community while protecting the environment and strengthening the economic viability of the town," said Clemons.

The funds will be used to construct a wastewater collection system with sewage treatment accomplished through a connection to the Lawtey Correctional Institute master pump station at the correctional facility. The central wastewater collection and transmission system will consist of approximately 34,000 linear feet of 8-inch gravity lines, 4500 linear feet of 6-inch force mains, 9000 linear feet of 4-inch force mains, service laterals and three pump stations.

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities and is the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through Rural Housing Programs, Rural Business-Cooperative Programs and Rural Utilities Programs. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl>

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